

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 775

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Arthur Acklin "Art" Beesley of Lebanon.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of our friend Arthur Acklin "Art" Beesley of Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beesley was an accomplished businessman, consummate professional and exemplary public servant who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born April 14, 1923 in Triune, Tennessee to the late Arthur Acklin and Martha Smith Beesley, Art grew up on the family farm in Bedford County and attended Wartrace High School; like many of his generation, he answered the call to arms during World War II and served aboard the Valencia where he saw action in the Pacific at Guadalcanal; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Beesley entered the University of Kentucky and played one season of football under the late Paul "Bear" Bryant before transferring to Cumberland University, where he lettered in baseball, basketball and football, and served as Captain of the football team; and

WHEREAS, following college, Art Beesley went to work in sales for Cargill, Inc., the world's largest private corporation; a sales and marketing success, he was named to the prestigious President's Club three times during his 29 years as a territory Manager; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beesley was also employed for five years with Garvin Feed and Seed in Huntsville, Alabama. At both Cargill and Garvin he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, having retired from the private sector, Art Beesley served with competence and acumen as Director of Charitable Solicitations in the Office of the Secretary of State, and upon retirement in 1989, served as Sergeant at Arms for the Tennessee House of

Representatives for nine years, where he was a familiar presence during the legislative sessions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beesley was very involved in community activities in Lebanon, serving on the Lebanon Planning Commission for many years and being elected as Alderman for two terms in 1970-78; a past member of the Lions Club, he was also active in the Cumberland University Alumni Association and was inducted into the Cumberland Athletic Hall of Fame and later served as its President; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beesley was an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church of Nashville, which he served faithfully for many years as Deacon, Training Union Director, Sunday School teacher and usher; a member of the Luke Sunday School class he also served on the Long Range Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, Art Beesley was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of 55 years, Doris Davenport Beesley, and was the proud parent of daughters Martha Boyd and husband Tom, and Alice Gossage and husband Jeff, and grandchildren Daniel Gossage and Kathryn and Rachel Boyd; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Mr. Beesley was preceded in death by his brothers, James and Charles, and his sisters, Madeline Clark and Minnie Catherine Fortner; besides his wife, children and grandchildren, will be sorely missed by his sister, Grace Turner, the members of the Coffee Club at Mrs. Winners, and his many friends; and

WHEREAS, a beloved husband and father and a respected businessman and public servant, Mr. Beesley leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of our friend, this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Arthur Acklin "Art" Beesley, reflecting fondly upon

his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Beesley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.